

We are in a fair way of arriving at the full and true history of the Annexation of Texas, by means of the controversy that has sprung up out of an accidental remark in this paper concerning it. That remark called out Ex-President TYLER in his first Letter to the Editors of the National Intelligencer. To that Letter the Ex-President of Texas replied; and to him the Ex-President of the United States has rejoined, in the Letter in the preceding columns. These Letters belong to History. They belong to it at least so far as they show what were the impelling motives of the leaders in the Annexation project, which, as our readers know, we opposed with all our might whilst it was an open question, and which we have ever since deeply regretted, upon several grounds, and (not least among them) upon that of the danger, into which our Executive rushed, without even waiting for its near approach, of the odious war which has raged for more than a year past with the Republic of Mexico.

Enough has already been developed, in the course of this controversy, to show that the Annexation was sanctioned by Congress under an entire misunderstanding of the merits of the case. Congress would certainly not have agreed to the "Annexation," on the one hand, had they known, as we now know from the disclosures of this Correspondence, that all the alarms of European designs upon Texas, and in particular of the movements near that Government of a certain foreign gentleman "with a white hat," were only ingenious devices played off by Mr. HUNTER for the purpose of duping Mr. TYLER. Nor, on the other hand, would Congress have consented to the Annexation, had they known that, instead of the imperative duties of Humanity and Self-preservation urged upon Congress by President TYLER, the main purpose of that distinguished functionary in his scheme of annexation was in reality "a virtual Monopoly of the Cotton Plant!"

Intending to allow to Ex-President TYLER in our columns all the latitude he desires, and to leave the field free to him and his brother Ex-President, we refrain from the present comment upon this Letter of the former; not engaging by any promise, however, that we will not hereafter, at some convenient season, review the history of the "Annexation" by the lights which the chief agents in it, on each side, are now throwing upon its hitherto impenetrable mysteries.

Advices from Rio de the 30th July state that Mr. WISE, our Minister at Brazil, would leave shortly for the United States in the frigate *Columbia*.

GENERAL KEARNEY.—The citizens of St. Louis tendered to this distinguished officer the compliment of a Public Dinner, which, however, circumstances obliged him to decline.

A gentleman who has just arrived in this city from the White Sulphur Springs, Virginia, informs us that himself and a number of other gentlemen were in Mr. CLAY's room a few minutes after he had heard of the death of the lamented Governor WRIGHT. Mr. Clay was deeply affected, and paid a touchingly beautiful impromptu tribute to the honored dead, by alluding to his generous nature, uncompromising integrity, accomplished powers in debate, and his eminent public services. Though politically opposed, these distinguished statesmen, in their frequent and unvaried discussions of great national questions in the Senate of the United States, ever maintained towards each other the highest respect and the warmest feelings of attachment. Honorable alike to the living and the dead is the incident here related, and we have pleasure in giving it to our readers.

The Journal of Commerce states that the very respectable house of PRIME, WARD & Co., of New York, have suspended payment, awaiting further advices from England. The failure of several London houses is the deeply-regretted cause of this suspension.

The "Union" seems to think that if we do not "acquire Mexican territory" the prosecution of the war will be "a profligate farce." We are afraid the tragedy of the war is too serious a one to have the least particle of comedy connected with it—even in its conclusion. The prosecution may be "profligate," territory or no territory, but it will be no "farce."—*Alex. Gazette.*

The Editor of the Democrat, in avowing himself in favor of conquering and annexing all of Mexico, has merely adopted what is now understood to be the object of this war and the cherished purpose of the Administration. After protesting that the war was not waged for conquest, the editor of the Government organ has at length grown bolder than he formerly was, and declared that if we do not subjugate and annex Mexico the war will prove an "utter failure," and all the victories we have gained will only render us ridiculous in the opinion of the world. Other Locofoco editors, like our neighbor of the Democrat, emboldened by the example of the Government editor, have taken the same ground, until it can scarcely be doubted that it is the intention of a large proportion of the Locofoco party to bring into this Confederacy all of Mexico, with all her vile, ignorant, and lawless population, amounting to seven or eight millions of souls! This infamous scheme of conquest and appropriation, of national wrong and robbery—the most magnificent, wicked, and Heaven-defying scheme that ever disgraced a Government professing to respect the principles of honor and justice—is gaining ground alarmingly in high and low Locofoco quarters, and it can no longer be doubted that a hot and perilous struggle will be made to accomplish it.

We know that the magnitude of this scheme will cause many persons to doubt whether it is seriously entertained by the Administration. We do not pretend to say that Mr. Polk has all along had his cupid fixated on such an enterprise, although there are many circumstances which strongly sustain the supposition that it has long been secretly entertained by the Administration. Our rulers begin to despair of bringing Mexico to adopt the terms they wish her to accept, and, being unwilling to relinquish any portion of the conquests made by our armies, have probably concluded that the best method will be to conquer all of the territory, and hold military occupation of it until the people of the United States can be induced to favor the annexation of the whole of Mexico.

[Louisville Journal.]  
Upwards of one hundred passengers went South in the mail boat from Washington on Thursday morning. The current of travel is setting in that direction, and the Potomac route appears to be much in favor with the travelling public, which is not surprising; for with the fast and commodious steamer *Aurora*, and her deservedly popular commander, Capt. J. W. Rogers, it could not well be otherwise.—*Alex. Gazette.*

## GOOD NEWS.

The New Orleans papers received last night brought the important intelligence that on the 20th ultimo Gen. Scott was at the gates of the city of Mexico—having had two battles, in both of which he was victorious—and that, at the instance of the Mexican authorities, he was then awaiting the issue of a summons to Congress to act upon the propositions for peace which had been previously transmitted to Mexico by our Government. This intelligence inspires the joyful hope of an early close to an unhappy and ruinous war, and the speedy re-establishment of peace.

The news reached Vera Cruz on the evening of the 26th ultimo by an express courier from Orizaba, who brought the following letter to Mr. DIMOND, the Collector at Vera Cruz:

ORIZABA, AUGUST 25, 1847.  
MY DEAR FRIEND: The Mexican mail which has just come in brings the following intelligence, which I copy from the *Diario Oficial del Gobierno*. Being of so great importance I send you this express courier, who will be with you to-morrow about 12 o'clock.

On the 20th ultimo, commanded by Gen. Valencia and Santa Anna, went out to attack the Americans near San Angel. Valencia's division has been completely defeated, and Santa Anna, after the first rencontre, fell back also in disorder to the city.

They immediately after this asked for a suspension of hostilities, and offered to hear the propositions of peace from Mr. Triest. The next day the Minister of Foreign Relations invited the Congress, through the newspapers, to meet for that purpose.

These are the great facts, which no doubt will bring after them peace. Yours, truly,

Another express arrived in Vera Cruz on the 26th, with letters containing the same news in substance, and the following translation of the announcement of it in the *Diario del Gobierno*:

TRANSLATED FROM THE DIARIO OFICIAL DEL GOBIERNO.  
On the 20th August Scott's troops, who intended marching on Peñon, turned it and arrived near Tacubaya. As soon as the news was known at Mexico, Valencia's division went out to attack the Americans at Los Llanos de San Angel, and was completely routed. Next came Santa Anna, with another division, which shared the same fate after some fighting. The Mexicans retreated to the capital in great disorder, and such was the panic created by their defeat that the Minister of Foreign Relations immediately convoked the Congress to take into consideration Mr. Triest's proposition. A suspension of arms was demanded by the Mexicans and granted. The Americans are around Mexico, but had not entered the city on the 21st.

Such (says the Picayune) are the meager details which we have of these important events. No couriers from Gen. Scott's army direct have been able to get through, so far as we can learn. But, from the foregoing statements, it is manifest that Gen. Scott holds the city of Mexico at his command. That Gen. Scott did not choose to enter the city of Mexico is apparent. He was doubtless deterred from entering it by a desire to save the pride of the Mexicans when upon the eve of important negotiations. It is now supposed that the extraordinary courier which left Vera Cruz for Mexico on the 12th ultimo, a day in advance of the regular English courier, was the bearer of instructions to the British Minister to offer again his mediation; and we think we may safely say that he was instructed to do so, if possible, before Gen. Scott entered the capital. We believe the instructions were positive, and no doubt they were obeyed. Having absolute confidence in this representation of the acts of the British Government, we think it reasonable to suppose that Gen. Scott was influenced by a knowledge of this mediation to trust once again to the efforts of Mr. Triest to negotiate a peace, and so spared the Mexicans the humiliation of the armed occupation of their capital. His characteristic humanity may also be presumed to have strongly influenced him to save Mexico from the violence of a hostile occupation.

Though containing little additional information, we add the two following letters from the New Orleans Press—the first one from the Bulletin and the second from the Times:

VERA CRUZ, AUGUST 27, 1847.  
The house of Hargous & Co. received a courier yesterday from their partner, who is at the capital, and in a few hurried lines says that Gen. Scott was before the city. There had been an attack made on a portion of the American army, but the Mexicans were repulsed with great loss.

Proposals had been sent to Gen. Scott offering to treat, and the fighting had been suspended, though the batteries and artillery of the Americans were all ready to fire on them, and Gen. Scott had actually commenced when the flag of truce reached him.

The result was not known, though the courier verbally reports that the American army were actually entering the city when he left. Nothing further will probably be known until the arrival of the English courier, who is expected on the 1st September.

The Americans had cut off the supply of water, and the army was on both sides of the city. The fight took place with that portion under Worth. The action lasted two hours, and was sanguinary and decisive as regards the Mexicans. We know nothing as to the American loss. Gen. Scott, besides his flying artillery, has a very large battering train with him, and no doubt is felt here that he has obtained possession of the city. We anxiously wait full details, and sincerely hope it will lead to peace.

VERA CRUZ, AUGUST 27, 1847.  
We last evening had an express from Orizaba, with a single despatch, under date of the 25th instant, giving us the important information that a part of the Mexican forces, under General Valencia, had been completely routed by General Scott, and that a column under the immediate command of Santa Anna fell back upon the city. The action took place at San Angel, a place some six or eight miles southwest from the capital, on the 20th instant.

As soon as Santa Anna found himself in a comparative state of personal security, he dispatched a flag to General Scott, requesting a suspension of hostilities until time should be afforded for formal action on the subject of propositions, intimating at the same time the readiness of the Government to receive those brought by Mr. Triest. The Minister of Foreign Affairs also immediately wrote circulars, published in the *Diario Oficial*, calling an immediate session of Congress, with the object of taking these propositions into consideration.

If the Yankee army had been one of Visigoths, greater alarm would not have been created by their approach; and the Government has been driven and whipped and all parties scared into the measure that common sense has failed in inducing them to take long ago without coercion. It is an excellent sign that the Mexicans value their capital so highly, and the best results are to be expected from this exhibition of a shade of rest and becoming pride.

Whether Gen. Scott decided to drive them to desperation, by advancing at once upon the city, or to lay upon his arms keeping it at his feet, we have not learned. Our next express, which is anxiously expected, will tell, and I hope to inform you by the next steamer that joint commissioners are engaged in arranging terms of peace. God grant that their efforts may be early successful, and I am full of hope that such will be the case. The despatch which contains the intelligence which I now give winds up with this unqualified declaration, "Peace will positively be the result."

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS FIGURE OF SEPTEMBER 3.  
We have given none of the rumors current in Vera Cruz as to the fall of Mexico. They are evidently founded on imperfect reports of the real state of facts. The rumors circulated here that Santa Anna and Valencia were taken prisoners we believe are totally unfounded.

In regard to the train under Major Lally the intelligence is favorable. We are informed, from a very responsible source, that he is known to have passed Perote and been on his way in safety to Puebla. He made some delay in Jalapa. We have been favored with the two notes following, the first of which is a translation from the Spanish:

JALAPA, AUGUST 26, 1847.  
The American army, after much suffering on the road, has been again attacked at Dos Rios by 700 guerrillas, and badly enough treated. Even before the entrance into Jalapa there was some fighting. At 9 o'clock, the Americans entered the city firing, and retreated one mile. He was lashed by one of the guerrillas. This morning they sent a flag of truce to the *Ayuntamiento* (City Council) to ascertain whether they should enter as friends or foes; but, without awaiting an answer, they began to enter, and continued up to 1 P. M., when all got in. There are 70 wagons and 800 men, among whom 317 are wounded and sick. Major Lally is sick, the horses are worn out—for which reason it is supposed they will remain here for some time. It is said that Father Jaraeta will attack them to-night; but nothing positive.

Major Lally, with his command, is still here, and will probably remain here some time. The guerrillas have all disappeared from this neighborhood, but to where they have gone I am unable to say. Aberto, the guerrilla chief, died in Jalapa a few days since, some say of a wound received in one of the attacks on Major Lally's command, and others by fever.

We do not entertain any doubt that the train, as mentioned above, had passed Perote and gone on in safety to Puebla.

Intelligence reached Col. WILSON on the morning of the 27th ultimo that Lieut. David Henderson, of Capt. Fairchild's company of dragoons, and his party who were sent out by Captain Wells on the 15th of August to apprise Major Lally of the approach of reinforcements, were all shot by the guerrillas. There is little or no doubt of the correctness of this sad intelligence.

The following letter gives some facts that we have not before seen, though news promptly reached here of the insurrection in Yucatan:

VERA CRUZ, AUGUST 27, 1847.  
On Sunday last the city was startled with intelligence from Yucatan that the whole Indian population of that State had risen against the whites, and in some districts massacred entirely the white population, with the exception of the women, whom they only spared for a fate still worse than death. The news was received here by the French Consul in a communication from the French Consul at Campeche, and the massacre he says was universal, no distinction being made except between Indians and whites. In some of the districts the whites have succeeded in reaching the cities, and were there waiting succor. There is good reason to hope these will be able to defend themselves until they are reinforced. At Campeche they were in expectation of an immediate attack.

The French brig of war *La Peyrouse* and *La Platte* have, it is understood, both been ordered down one of the vessels of our squadron. There is, perhaps, some exaggeration in the accounts of the extent of the massacre, but of the main facts there is no doubt. The Indians in Yucatan have been more oppressed than in any other part of Mexico, because the landholders are generally absentees residing in Spain, and entrust the management of their estates to stewards, who, to subvert their own interests, grind the unfortunate poor to the dust.

An express arrived here on Tuesday from Alvarado to Com. Perry, with information that the guerrillas had attacked that place the night before, and killed a surgeon and two marines in that town. The steamers *Petrita* and *Scorpion* were immediately dispatched to reinforce those in possession of the place.

The Sun of Anahuac of the 25th ultimo contains the following orders, no doubt suggested by the escape of Paredes from Vera Cruz:

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,  
VERA CRUZ, AUGUST 25, 1847.  
"NOTICE.—Passengers arriving at this port without passports from the American Consul resident at the port they embark from, will not be allowed to leave the vessel; and the master of any vessel permitting such passengers to land will be fined \$500 for each and every passenger so landed, and the vessel held responsible for the same."

F. M. DIMOND, Collector.  
U. S. FLAG SHIP GEN. TOWNSEND,  
Anton Lizardo, August 18, 1847.

GENERAL ORDER, NO. 11.—All vessels, excepting army steamers and transports, arriving at ports in Mexico held by the United States forces, are to be visited by a boat from the United States ship of the day, or any single vessel of the squadron that may be in port, for the purpose of searching the cargo and compartments of service to foreign vessels of war, and of detecting any irregularities in foreign mail steamers or merchant vessels, whether foreign or American.

It is desirable, when it is practicable, that the boarding officer should be a lieutenant.

M. C. PERRY,  
Commanding Home Squadron.

Major Clark, commanding the Castle at Vera Cruz, had died of the vomito.

The health of Vera Cruz was better, and the vomito had decreased.

AMERICANS IN CALIFORNIA.—An officer of the Topographical corps has written to his brother at Rochester a letter, dated at San Francisco, May 30, extracts of which we find in the Advertiser. Among other things, he says:

"I wish the United States would export a better sample of her citizens to this country than we have here now. It is lamentable to see so many people who call themselves Americans without a trace of honesty or honor to control them. I do not wonder the Californians kick against them. If we are to retain this country, we ought to establish a despotism for a year or two, until the turbulent spirits can be hanged; the rest might take warning and behave themselves. Very few of them are fit to live in civilized society, and but few are fit even to live here. Those who came out in Stevenson's regiment I hope will improve the race a little."

A letter from a volunteer, dated at Santa Barbara on the 14th May, says:

"The interest felt in the country generally, its commercial and agricultural advantages, and its people and their customs, is perhaps even greater than in its political affairs. In these I must candidly confess I have been considerably disappointed, and would caution others how they indulge too largely in imaginations, and give too ready a credence to the highly-colored descriptions which more passers through have given of the country. All the ideas formed of it are exaggerated. It is no 'El Dorado,' after all, and the same requisites for happiness and wealth are needed here as in any other portion of the globe. The air is composed of the same gases, and the 'sweat of the brow' is required to cause the earth to 'bring forth its fruits in due season.'"

"The climate has been most misrepresented. Instead of an eternal spring here, we have found 'el otra cosa,' as the Spaniards say. When we arrived at San Francisco, in March, the weather was as bleak as the Atlantic coast at the same season, and during a stay of three weeks it was constantly cold and foggy. A sharp cutting wind blows into the harbor at all seasons of the year, which renders a residence there very uncomfortable. Since we have been in Santa Barbara we have scarcely seen the sun, and the lovely 'Merry May' has thus far been beclouded in mist and fog. No Paradise this, I can assure you."

COAST SURVEY.—BOSTON HARBOR.—Last Saturday evening, we see by the Boston papers, the United States steamer *Bibb*, one of the vessels of the Coast Survey, anchored at the Navy Yard there. She has been on the hydrographical operations in the vicinity of Nantucket Shoals, and some discoveries have been made that are valuable to general as well as local navigation. The survey of Boston harbor is at once to be resumed. Four parties of the Coast Survey have been actively employed during the summer in the different branches of the work necessary to produce a complete chart of Boston harbor and its approaches—one of triangulation, two of topography, and one of hydrography. By a resolution of the Legislature of Massachusetts, thirty-five hundred dollars was appropriated for this object.

In another year, the "Boston Post" remarks, we may hope to see an engraved chart of the whole harbor, such as will not only show its present condition perfectly, but will also supply the means of ascertaining correctly the future changes.

The new Fifth Regiment of Ohio Volunteers has been fully organized by the election of WILLIAM IRVIN Colonel, WM. H. LATHAM Lieutenant Colonel, and Capt. LEWIS Major.

## LATEST FROM THE RIVER OF PLATE.

Accounts from Montevideo to the 16th July confirm the reports which we have previously received respecting the failure of the English and French Ministers to effect with General Rosas a settlement of the difficulties in the River Plate. It appears that, all other points having been arranged, the negotiation stuck on the river question. The Ministers of France and England recognised the sovereignty of the Argentine Confederation over the River Parana, and that of the Oriental Republic over the Uruguay, as it was re-established by international right. Governor Rosas did not admit this restriction, but required that the perpetual sovereignty of the two Republics over these rivers should be acknowledged; and for this the Plenipotentiaries had no authority.

The Plenipotentiaries afterwards made an effort to continue the armistice for six months, the results of which are thus stated on the authority of the Journal of Commerce of Rio Janeiro:

"LORD HOWDEN, on his arrival at Montevideo from Buenos Ayres, immediately proposed to the Oriental Government and to Gen. Oribe a continuance of the armistice for six months, the French Minister also taking a part in the negotiation, but with reluctance. The Oriental Government immediately accepted the proposition, while Gen. Oribe required two days to reply. At the expiration of this period the secretaries of the Ministers visited the camp of the besiegers, but Oribe wanted two days more. When this second period had expired, the secretaries again visited the encampment, but were again disappointed, the besieging General asking further delay."

"Twice the secretaries of the mediating delegations had repaired to the headquarters of Gen. Oribe in vain. The French Minister thought he ought not to send his secretary a third time, but Lord Howden, more forbearing than his colleague, again sent his agent, and this time he returned with a definitive reply. Gen. Oribe accepted the armistice on condition that the blockade of all the Argentine and Oriental ports should be raised, and the besiegers be obliged to sell to the town fifteen hundred head of cattle per month. These conditions not being accepted either by the Oriental Government or the French Minister, the negotiation was broken off."

"In this state of things there were a thousand conjectures at Montevideo as to the ulterior course of the intervening Ministers, when, on the evening of the 15th, it was positively known that Lord HOWDEN had just given orders to the commander of the English naval force to suspend, on his part, the blockade of the Argentine and Oriental ports; but that the French Minister, on the contrary, dissenting from his colleague, will direct Admiral Proudhon to renew the blockade efficiently. It seems evident, therefore, that England withdraws from the question of the River Plate, and that France takes the affair into her own hands."

The blockade was still enforced by the French on the 16th July, and it was reported that the English and French Ministers were about to depart for Rio de Janeiro, there to await further instructions from their Governments.

## THE PRESENT ASPECT OF NEW ORLEANS.

The funeral aspect of New Orleans, in the presence of the fearful epidemic now raging in that city, is thus graphically described in the Bulletin:

BUSINESS IN NEW ORLEANS.—The usual inactivity of this season of the year is of course always increased by the presence of the yellow fever; but for ourselves we have never experienced an equal dullness and desertion of the city to what exists at present.

We were yesterday particularly struck at the appearance of one of our thoroughfares, when, in looking up towards the river for a distance of three squares, not a dry nor a wheel-carriage of any kind was visible, and but a solitary individual, where in ordinary times we have seen the activity of business and the throng of population.

With but few exceptions, our streets during the week present the quiet appearance of the Sabbath.

The levee is deserted by ships, steamboats, and animal life, and the noonday sun pours down its burning rays upon lifeless tranquillity. All visitors and business strangers, whose means and occupations would allow them to do so, have left the city; and a large portion of our citizens have followed their example, either in the annual crowds that visit the North or the neighboring watering places, which latter are all overflowing, leaving the city almost a desert. As to business, in the way of sales, purchases, negotiations, or collections, it is literally suspended. "Nothing is doing, and nobody to do it with." Even the municipal authorities can scarcely make sufficient collections to meet the ordinary current public expenses.

A stranger visiting New Orleans now and in December next would find it difficult to realize it was the same city.

## NORTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEERS.

FROM THE WILMINGTON CHRONICLE OF WEDNESDAY.

RETURN OF OFFICERS.—Captains William J. Price and George Williamson, Jr., and Lieut. Tatam, all of the North Carolina Volunteer Regiment, arrived here on Thursday last, from General Taylor's camp, having left there on the 26th July. They have come in on the recruiting service.

We learn from Capt. Price that when he left it was Gen. Taylor's design to move towards San Luis Potosi some time between the 1st and 15th September, but at the Brasos Cay, P. met with an officer bearing despatches for the General, which, it was suspected, would change his plans, although their exact purport could not of course be known.

We had a conversation yesterday with Mr. J. B. Melvin, of Bladen county, one of the North Carolina volunteers, belonging to Company I, Captain Kirkpatrick, who was discharged on account of sickness. Mr. Melvin left Saltillo on the 7th August, and Monterey on the 16th. He informed us that at the time he left about one hundred and fifty of the regiment had died, and about the same number were then sick. Three and four had died each day for the week previous to his leaving. At the parade on the last Saturday in July only about 250 men appeared fit for duty, exclusive of forty-five or fifty on guard. From twenty-five to thirty were discharged at the same time Mr. Melvin was, and for the same cause. Lieut. Beatty, of company I, has resigned, and is coming home.

VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.—The vacancy in the Virginia House of Delegates, occasioned by the death of a member from Giles and Mercer, has been filled by a Democrat, which gives that party two majority on joint ballot.

The United States schooner *On ka-hy-e*, in twenty days from Pensacola, arrived at New York on Thursday morning. Passed Midshipman CHARLES WARDELL, after an illness of five days, died on the 30th ultimo.

RAILROAD ACCIDENT.—We learn from the Martinsburg (Va.) Gazette that some of the cars attached to the passenger train of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad were thrown from the track on Tuesday last, near Hedgesville, a few miles above Martinsburg. Two of the hands and two of the passengers were severely injured. One of the passengers was a gentleman by the name of PIERCE, from Ohio, who had his leg broken, and the other (name not known) was from Kentucky, whose arm was broken. Both are doing well.

Running away with another man's wife is now called "stealing female clothing," as decided at Pittsburgh. A man named Taylor was arrested by the husband of the woman (Mrs. Davis) with whom he had eloped from Detroit. The husband, failing in reaching him by any other process, brought him before the Mayor charged with larceny in the taking away of his wife's clothes. He was brought before Judge Lowrie on a writ of habeas corpus. His honor, after having the evidence, postponed his decision for two days, when he remanded the prisoner to jail to await the requisition of the authorities of Michigan on a charge of larceny. This is bringing the stealing of hearts down to the unromantic reality of stealing clothes.

CAUTION TO THE LADIES.—A lady, says the Syracuse (N. Y.) Journal, visiting at one of her first families, who was assisting in making arrangements for a wedding party, a few days since narrowly escaped death by tasting the oil of almonds. Having uncorked the vial and merely touched the cork with the tip of the tongue, she was suddenly seized with violent spasms and severe pain, which continued for nearly twenty-four hours, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of the physicians.

## ARMY MEDICAL BOARD.

A Board of Army Surgeons for the examination of applicants for appointment to the Medical Staff of the Regular Army will convene in the city of New York on the 27th of October ensuing, and will probably continue in session for three or four weeks.

Applications must be addressed to the Secretary of War, must state the age and residence of the applicant, and must be accompanied by respectable testimonials (mere references are not sufficient) of his possessing the moral and physical qualifications requisite for filling creditably the responsible station, and for performing ably the arduous and active duties of an Officer of the Medical Staff.

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE, SEPT. 10, 1847.

## VOTING WHILE OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

We have recently noticed a statement, which we could hardly credit at first, that by the election law of Pennsylvania the volunteers belonging to that State, serving in the armies of the United States, are to be allowed to vote in State elections, and of course in United States elections, although absent from the country. The Philadelphia News gives the following account of this strange law:

"By the provisions of our election law, the troops from this State who are in actual military service on the day of the election, under a requisition from the President of the United States, may exercise the right of suffrage, at such place as may be appointed by the commanding officer of the troops or company to which they shall respectively belong, as fully as if they were present at the usual place of election."

The captain or commanding officer of each company or troop acts as judge, and the first lieutenant or officer second in command acts as inspector for such troop or company. Within three days after the election the judges thereof are required to transmit a return thereof through the nearest post office—together with the tickets, tally lists, and lists of voters, to the prothonotary of the county in which such elections would have voted if not in military service. And also a return to the commanding officer of the regiment or battalion, who shall make a general return of the votes of the companies or troops under his command, and shall transmit the same through the nearest post office to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The prothonotary of the county to whom such returns are made, is to return to the return judges a copy of the return of votes. The return judges of the proper counties are required to meet on the second Tuesday in November after the election; or where two or more counties are connected in the election, on the Friday following that day, and to include in their enumeration the votes so returned."

This anomalous law becomes of importance all over the country, from the fact that the right of voting at general elections is conferred upon all citizens permitted in each State to vote in State elections, and the law might therefore have an important effect upon the affairs of the whole nation. As a law it strikes us as entirely opposed to the general principles of our system, which makes residence an essential feature and test of the right of suffrage. It further offends against the universality of that right, by selecting a particular class of absentees. It would be quite as just, and probably far more practicable, to give this privilege, if it be one, to our merchant seamen, and make masters of vessels and supercargoes inspectors and returning officers of elections.

Whether it is to be supposed that the law can survive the test of comparison with the constitutions of Pennsylvania and the United States or not, it will probably meet its fate from its impracticability. Captains and Generals can hardly be called upon to hold elections and count and return votes, or to be able to decide questions as to the citizenship and domicile of their men. Clerks and Prothonotaries could almost never make up their returns, when they were to wait for the ballot of one vote from Monterey, another in the Halls of the Montezumas, and perhaps half a dozen at San Francisco.

We have no desire to restrict our army in any of their real rights. This we conceive to be no right, and, as we have hinted, to be scarcely a privilege. The voters would be called upon, if at all, to decide questions which they had not had the opportunity of examining, and to make selections between men whose claims could not properly be laid before them.—*Boston Daily Advertiser.*

## "PASSIVE OBEDIENCE."

We do not think the public has yet sufficiently examined and condemned the course sketched out originally by President Polk in his message to Congress, and since followed assiduously by the government official journal and its affiliated presses, in relation to the imputation of moral treason on those who presume to differ with the Executive with regard to the war with Mexico, or any war into which the country may be hastily or injudiciously plunged. It was a new discovery here; or, at least, the first introduction of the old European doctrine of "Passive Obedience" into the politics of this country, and the author should have all the credit due to this improvement upon even the arbitrary notions of one of his illustrious predecessors. What had been long since exploded in England, and is now not fashionable in France, is revived in republican America, and the chains with which power would bind the thoughts and the free opinions of men merely attempted to be concealed with empty and vain pretences, so flimsy that all must see the galling iron beneath.

It is not a light thing that this attempt should now have been made. It shows the effrontery as well as the wickedness of POWER. If it is allowed to place honorable men under the ban, because they do not think, and will not say, that the Executive was right in bringing on this war with Mexico, and for refusing to unite in lauding the motives and conduct of those who were instrumental in afflicting us with its evils, it will be a very easy step to proceed a little further in the downward course of despotism, and introduce something still more stringent to curb the freedom of speech, if not the right to think. A sedition law is not far off when the leaders of a dominant party have the audacity to anthematize those who do not acknowledge fealty to an Administration, because that Administration is conducting a war in which it has involved the country.

And what more monstrous than the assumption thus made by the Administration and its journals? They confound the Government with those who execute the laws, and raise up Presidential Prerogative as the object of homage and submission. They place a bit in the mouths and a rein upon the tongues of the people and their representatives. Because war exists there must be silence—the silence of despotism! Is this a doctrine to be preached before and enforced upon a free country?

Instead, then, of tamely submitting to the denunciations and imputations of the Administration, let those assailed turn upon their accusers, and, whilst vindicating the right of the people to think what they please and say what they please, concerning the conduct of public affairs, in war as well as peace, charge home upon them the fact of attempting to revive at home the odious principle of "Passive Obedience" to Power.—*Alexandria Gazette.*

The Rev. Mr. MARY delivered a lecture on Friday evening of last week in the Tabernacle in the city of New York. The subject of the reverend gentleman's discourse was the Mexican war, and he took the popular Locofoco ground in relation to it. He announced himself in favor of annexing all of Mexico, her mountains and valleys, with all the delectable population that roam over them, to the United States. His patriotism is much more comprehensive than discriminating. We do not know whether he is in favor of slaying the eight millions of people that inhabit that territory, or of eating them up, or of converting them into decent Republicans and exemplary Christians. Like other rabid annexationists, he has not probably yet made up his mind as to what should be done with the men and women, the olive-colored beauties, the murderous rancheros, the Indians, the half-breeds, quarter-breeds, three-quarter-breeds, and the infinite variety of other breeds that mark the human form in that doomed country. Some of the Locofocos are for sweeping them from the earth with ruthless and unsparring slaughter, while others, far more merciful, are in favor of amalgamations, absorptions, and modifications, the effect of which will be to greatly puzzle future genealogists, and to produce a mixture of blood more perplexing than the mixture of tongues at Babel.—*Louisville Journal.*

## FROM BALTIMORE AND THE NORTH.

BALTIMORE, SEPTEMBER 10.—P. M.

The failure of the house in New York of Prime, Ward & Co. has created some excitement here to-day, though, so far as can learn, their liabilities here are few, and in no case will be seriously felt by either bankers or merchants of Baltimore.

The news from Mexico, shadowing the hope of peace and the success of our arms, was gladly received. Flags have been flying from various public buildings during the day in consequence of the favorable intelligence.

The flour market remains dull and without change. Sales to-day of about 500 barrels Howard street at \$5.25, and 300 barrels City Mills at \$5.12—mostly held at \$5.25. The inspections of the week amount to 13,047 barrels—rather a falling off.

Wheat is dull, with sales of red at \$1.00 a \$1.03, and white do. \$1.05 a \$1.08; strictly prime white do. \$1.15. About 45,000 bushels wheat have been sold during the week. It is now rather on the decline. Sales of white and yellow corn at 58 a 60; oats 35 a 38; rye 70.

There is no change to notice in provisions. Beef cattle \$2.62 per 100 lbs. gross average, and hogs \$6.50 a \$7; whiskey 26 a 27.